

Sue Wallis with Shady Grove Nursery arranges plants before the start of the Clemson Farmers Market earlier this summer. The market, held each Friday from mid-May until earlier this month in Lakeview Shopping Center, could be relocating to the soon-to-open Town Center at Patrick Square next year.
JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

Clemson Farmers Market wraps up inaugural effort

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — The Clemson Farmers Market recently wrapped up its first year of operations. City Planner Arzu Yilmaz said she is pleased with how well the public responded to the weekly event.

"I don't have an exact count but guess that there were several thousand visitors who came out," said Yilmaz, who also manages the market with assistance from the city's Public Works Department.

Yilmaz said the Clemson Farmers Market was created with the objective of supporting local farmers and entrepreneurs while providing consumers with fresh, locally grown produce by facilitating direct sales from grower to consumer. During its first year, the market hosted more than 25 local growers, value-added food vendors and artisans, averaging between 10-14 vendors each Friday.

Vendors were required to pay a $25 fee for the season.

Yilmaz said plans for next year will begin within the next several weeks.

"We will contact potential vendors early so they can plan for the season," she said. "We will also add activities, such as food demonstrations by local vendors, along with more marketing efforts."

This year's event was held on 20 consecutive Fridays, rain or shine, in front of Crosspoint Church in the Lakeview Shopping Center. But Yilmaz said plans are already under way for a permanent market location that meets the needs of a farmers market.

The soon-to-open Town Center green in the Patrick Square development, off Issaqueena Trail, is expected to house the event next year.

greg@dailyjm.com | (864) 882-2375